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SOURCE Aztag.

USSR ATTEMPT AT CONTROL OF ARMENIAN CHURCH IN IRAN

[Comment: In a dispatch dated 11 January 1953, Aztag's correspondent in Tehran reported that the USSR was again attempting to disrupt the peace of the Armenian community of Tehran. His remarks are summarized below.]

Ten days ago, Garabed Manookian, locum tenens to the Archbishop of Azerbaijan, received a telegram from Kevork VI, Supreme Catholicos of all Armenians, ordering him to proceed to Tehran immediately and, as the authorized representative of Echmiadzin, to dissolve all existing Armenian Church organizations, such as the diocesan councils, the church directorships and trusteeships, etc., and to hold new elections and inform him of the results.

The Catholicos also informed the locum tenens that hereafter the Archbishop of the Armenian Church of Iran would be sent from Echmiadzin.

The Supreme Catholicos also instructed Manookian to call on the Iranian Minister of the Interior and inform him that the present Armenian Church organizations in Iran are declared illegal by the order of the Supreme Catholicos of Echmiadzin and must, therefore, be dissolved.

This has caused great indignation in the Armenian community of Tehran.

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